

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

January 20, 2015

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The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein O. Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts and Paul Norwine. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Andree.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD: Nominations were opened. Mr. Price made a motion to nominate Rein Bontreger as President. Mr. Andree seconded this motion. No other nominations were made. Mr. Jordan made a motion to close the nominations and Mr. Fritts seconded. The motion carried unanimously. After a unanimous vote, Mr. Bontreger was elected President of the Council.

Mr. Bontreger opened nominations for Vice President. Mr. DeVries made a motion to nominate John Price. Mr. Jordan made a motion to nominate Andrew Andree. Mr. Fritts made the motion to close nominations. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously. A vote was taken. Mr. Norwine, Mr. Price and Mr. DeVries voted in favor of John Price. Mr. Fritts, Mr. Andree, and Mr. Jordan voted in favor of Mr. Andree. Due to a tie vote, the final vote went to Mr. Bontreger. Mr. Bontreger voted in favor of Mr. Andree to be Vice President.

MINUTES: Mr. Price made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on December 16, 2014. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / RECORDER'S BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Recorder's Budget, Personal Services, 1st Deputy was \$709.00. Upon retirement in March of 2014, the previous deputy was paid the remainder of her vacation days creating a shortfall in the budgeted line for the 1st deputy. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2015-01A** as advertised. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / JASPER COUNTY DRUG-FREE COMMUNITY FUND: Advertised in the Jasper County Drug-Free Community Fund was \$1,000.00 in Supplies, Office Expenses. Also advertised in the Jasper County Drug-Free Community Fund under Other Services & Charges was \$9,000.00 in Treatment Services, \$7,000.00 in Prevention & Education, \$8,000.00 in Coordinator Services and \$8,000.00 in Criminal Justice Service for a total request of \$33,000.00. Jeff Phillips was present as the new director of the Partners for a Drug-Free Jasper County. Attorney Robert Monfort also reminded the Council that there is no tax dollars involved with this program. Mr. Price made the motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2015-01B** as advertised. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Norwine asked who makes the determination on the allocation? Attorney Monfort replied that the Statue requires that each of the three categories receive no less than 25% and no more than 50% of the total collected. The Executive Committee meets and determines the amount to be allocated to each of those that have turned in a request. The allocations are also based on the projects that are proposed. All of the money stays within Jasper County.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION / APPOINTMENT: Mr. Price made the motion to reappoint Marvin K. Sutter to a one-year term on the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

JASPER COUNTY ERA ADVISORY PANEL / APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Norwine made the motion to appoint Jeff DeYoung as a replacement for himself on the ERA Advisory Board. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jordan made the motion to reappoint Becky Deardorff, Danita Rodibaugh, Gilbert Crimmons and Linda L. Meyer to the Jasper County ERA Advisory Panel. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

JASPER COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD / APPOINTMENT: Mr. Fritts made the motion to reappoint Natalie Waling to a four-year term on the Jasper County Library Board. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

JASPER COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION / APPOINTMENT: Mr. Price made the motion to reappoint Terry L. Stevens and Calvin M. Illingworth a one-year appointment on the Jasper County Redevelopment Commission. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

KANKAKEE-IROQUOIS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION / APPOINTMENT: Mr. Norwine made the motion to reappoint Andy Andree to a one-year term on the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT BOARD OF APPEALS / APPOINTMENT: Mr. Price made the motion to reappoint Lester Moore to a one-year term on the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

WABASH VALLEY HOSPITAL BOARD / APPOINTMENT: Mr. Jordan made the motion to reappoint Rein Bontreger to the Wabash Valley Hospital Board. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

JASPER COUNTY FAIR BOARD / APPOINTMENT: Mr. Jordan made the motion to appoint Paul Norwine to the Jasper County Fair Board as a replacement for H. Dan Stalbaum. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

LAB ONE LOCATIONS: Mr. Price asked if any headway had been made in finding a local place that county employees could go to for medical testing and blood work? Auditor Grow replied that she did send out an email of the LabOne locations. She is not aware of any other discussion at this time.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE / METAL THEFT: Mr. Price mentioned that the newspaper did an excellent job on an article regarding the metal theft problem. Representative Gutwein has proposed a really terrific bill. The law itself requires all of the necessary disclosures; however, the penalty for non-compliance is trivial. Along with Representative Gutwein and himself, Mr. Price mentioned that Sheriff Risner, Prosecutor Haskell, Commissioner Culp, Farm Bureau Insurance, and Steve Jordan have all been concerned about this issue.

CORONER / UPDATE: Andy Boersma reported that the Coroner's office finished the year with 80 calls and that all of the construction work is completed at the new morgue location.

Mr. Boersma requested that the Council look into getting an AED for the Fase Center. Mr. Price questioned whether that would be something that the Commissioners would have to approve and the Council would then fund? Mr. Boersma replied that he did make the Commissioners aware of it.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY / UPDATE: Brad Cozza, Airport Manager, extended a formal congratulation to Mr. Fritts and Mr. Norwine. We have enjoyed working in a partnership with the Council in making sure we are the best stewards of and a gateway to all of Jasper County and we look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead. Mr. Cozza gave an update on the snow equipment that the Council approved in September.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / EXTENSION BUDGET: Bryan Overstreet, Extension Educator, explained that Purdue University did not invoice Jasper County Extension for two of the six leased computers in the 2014 calendar year; therefore, an additional appropriation will be requested at the February meeting. In addition, Mr. Overstreet invited the Council to an upcoming Purdue Extension Community Forum on Tuesday, January 27 from 5:00-8:30 p.m. at the Jasper County Fairgrounds. Purdue Extension is hosting 20 forums statewide to solicit productive feedback from the people of Indiana and incorporate it into the Purdue College of Agriculture's formation of a new five-year strategic plan.

CITIZEN CONCERN / MATHIS: Tom Mathis, citizen, distributed and summarized an 11-page handout regarding the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Plan Commission. The handout was distributed to Council Members only and was not shared for the record.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / UPDATE: Based on the turnover and the fact that we now have this tourism initiative, Kevin Kelly, Economic Development Director, expressed his interest in raising the salary level on the second position within JCEDO. Mr. Kelly stated that we have gotten the Tourism Commission to generally agree to use the hotel/motel tax to put on top of the current salary. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Kelly if he perceived that if you get that experienced person, you would be able to reduce our commitment to South Shore at some point? Mr. Kelly replied that he has shared that with South Shore and they understand that. As you recall, the Tourism Commission has to come back before July 1 to get the funds to pay South Shore moving forward in the second half of the year. At this point, my position is going to be that we are not going to be ready to cut South Shore loose at any level July 1 regardless of who gets hired. Mr. Kelly stated that he feels like South Shore has been a wonderful partner and can continue over the long-term to continue to be a wonderful partner; however, we may not need them at the level that they are currently at.

There being no further business, Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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